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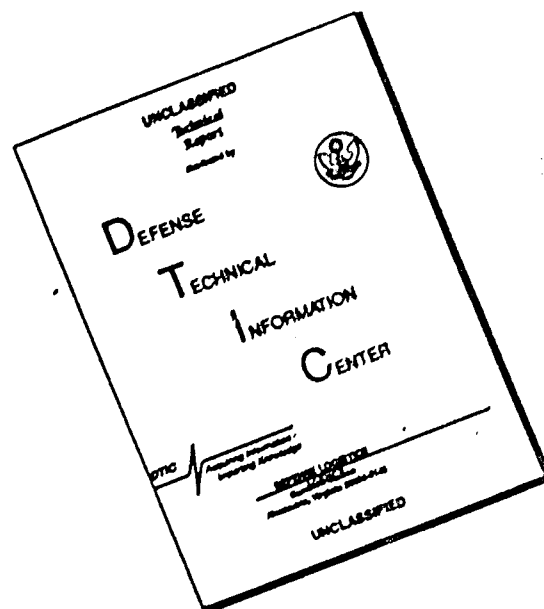
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (8 Dec 69) FOR OT UT 693198

11 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 43d Signal
Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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AD 862970

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 43RD SIGNAL BATTALION
APO 9631E

SCDPV-NG-PK-C

10 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

Reference: 1st Signal Brigade Reg 1-19, dated 12 July 1968,
Subject: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. General:

(1) The battalion was operational in the Republic of Vietnam for the entire reporting period of 92 days. Major effort was concentrated in the following areas: improving the quality of installed communications; raising the level of personnel proficiency through the use of in-country schools, OJT, and self-instructional programs; raising the standards of all categories of equipment maintenance to include vehicles, power generators, and signal equipment; and improving the living and recreational facilities for all assigned personnel.

(2) The 43rd Signal Battalion was reactivated in August of 1966 and organizationally structured to provide communications support to Military Assistance Command advisors in the II Corps Tactical Zone. All elements were formed under TOE 11-5COD. Subsequently, the organization mission was supplemented to add corps area communication support for U.S. Army organizations over three and one-half provinces of the Central Highlands to RVN. The original TOE did not fit the current mission. Accordingly, several original companies (B, D, and E) have been detached and others (278th and 586th Signal Companies) attached. Additionally, the internal organization of the remaining units was rearranged to match unit resources with mission requirements. An extensive modification to the existing TOE had been submitted through 21st Signal Group and 1st Signal Brigade but was disapproved by Department of the Army. A new TOE modification under the Golf Series, including TDA's for fixed station facilities was submitted in December 1968. This change is intended to tailor the organization to its long-term mission as now known.

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b. Organization: The following listing provides up-to-date information for organic units of the 43rd Signal Battalion. Inclosure 1 thru 5 provide additional information concerning attached units and units under the operational control of the 43rd Signal Battalion.

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>ETOE</u> | <u>USASCC</u> | <u>UIC</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| HHD, 43rd Sig Bn | PKU | 11-500D | 24/67 | WDQZTO |
| Co A, 43rd Sig Bn | PKU | 11-500D | 25/67 | WDQZAO |
| Co C, 43rd Sig Bn | KTM | 11-500D | 26/67 | WDQZCO |
| 278th Sig Co, 43rd Sig Bn | CPE | 11-117D | 02/67 | WCF3AA |
| 586th Sig Co, 43rd Sig Bn | AKE | 11-117D | 04/67 | WCF6AA |

c. Activities:

(1) Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion underwent a CMI by a six-member team from 21st Signal Group. The inspection was conducted during the period 29 June 1969 to 2 July 1969. The overall rating was satisfactory.

(2) In July 1969, a 21-man platoon from the 578th Signal Construction Company was attached to the 43rd Signal Battalion to support cable construction and rehabilitation projects. Elements of this platoon have been assigned to HHD, Pleiku; Co C, Kontum; 278th Sig Co, Camp Enari; and 586th Sig Co, An Khe.

(3) Major General Pepke, Commanding General, Fourth Infantry Division; Brigadier General Albright, Deputy Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade; Brigadier General Shaeffer, Assistant Deputy Commander-Alpha, Fourth Infantry Division; and Colonel Musgrave, Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group visited various sites and facilities of the battalion during the last reporting period.

d. Personnel and Administration:

(1) During this reporting period there were 224 gains and 283 losses for a net decrease of 59 personnel. The present authorization for this battalion is 1135 personnel. The assigned strength of this organization as of 31 July 1969 was 851 personnel or 73.2% of authorized strength.

(2) The following are personnel shortages which critically affect the accomplishment of this battalion's mission:

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>AUTH</u> | <u>RQRD</u> | <u>ASGD</u> | <u>TITLE</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 31J | 12 | 18 | 11 | Teletype Repairman |
| 32F | 1 | 8 | 3 | Ciphony Repairman |
| 32D | 11 | 15 | 5 | Technical Controller |

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72F 0 4 0 Data Communications Terminal Specialist

(3) There were twenty-nine (29) Bronze Star Medals; two (2) with V-Devices; one (1) Air Medal; two (2) Purple Hearts; forty-eight (48) Army Commendation Medals awarded to personnel of this battalion. Twenty-one (21) Bronze Star and twenty-four (24) Army Commendation Medals have been forwarded to higher headquarters and are pending approval.

c. Security:

(1) HHD, 43rd Signal Battalion, Pleiku, RVN:

(a) Constructed three guard and observation towers along the MACV/TROPO Hill 43rd Signal Battalion perimeter.

(b) Installed chainlink vehicle and personnel gates at entrance to compound where barriers were formerly used.

(c) Constructed new personnel bunkers adjacent to barracks buildings.

(d) Rehabilitated revetments around barracks buildings and improved revetments at ammunition and POL storage sites.

(e) Installed additional lights on access routes to the compound.

(f) Posted sign warning of provisions of entry to compound.

(g) Constructed revetment for the battalion helicopter pad.

(h) Prepared a revised Alert Plan.

(2) Company A, 43rd Signal Battalion, Pleiku, RVN:

(a) Completed construction of a security fence, (combination barbed/concertina wire) around the Pleiku North Signal Site.

(b) A chain link fence with barbed wire topping was constructed around the Pleiku North Communications Center. A single gate provides access and a burglar system has been installed to alert those in the Comm-Center of anyone's presence at the fence gate.

(c) Two defensive fighting bunkers were constructed at Company A VHF Site on Trope Hill Pleiku, RVN.

(d) A blast wall consisting of fifty-five gallon drums filled with sand was also constructed at the Trope Hill VHF Site to protect personnel enroute to the bunkers from the operations building.

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Period Ending 31 July 1969, RBS 65401-65 (P1)

(e) The Tropo Hill 15KW Back-Up Generator was relocated away from the perimeter chain link fence to an area adjacent to operations building; this was done to eliminate the threat of sabotage because of the close proximity to the perimeter fence and to permit better fields of fire from a machine gun position in this area.

(3) Company C, 13rd Signal Battalion, Kontum, RVN:

(a) All defensive bunkers along the company headquarters perimeter have been rebuilt.

(b) Defoliant obtained from local ARVN units was used to control undergrowth and foliage along the perimeter of the company.

(h) 278th Signal Company, Camp Enari, Pleiku, RVN:

(a) During the reporting period approximately 32,000 man-hours were expended on sentry duty, patrols and defensive operations.

(b) Eight anti-infiltration bunkers were constructed around the company headquarters area to provide better protection during sapper attacks.

(c) Work on the Camp Enari perimeter defensive bunkers was completed in July. Improvements included construction of rocket deflection screens, drainage ditches, screened sleeping areas and new bulletin boards.

(5) 506th Signal Company, Camp Radcliff, An Khe, RVN:

(a) A cyclone fence was constructed to enclose the DCO and Comm-Center Sites. Gates for their fencing will be installed as soon as they are completed by the An Khe PA&E element.

(b) An extensive program to defoliate the company perimeter has been continued by burning, cutting, and the use of herbicides.

(c) The 1st Brigade/4th Infantry Division Engineers are in the process of defoliating Hong Cong Mountain.

(d) A new entrance way for the company motor pool was constructed and a heavy gate installed. The new entrance way opens into the company area rather than on the rear access road, thereby improving physical security and reducing the possibility of vandalism or theft.

(e) On 1 June 1969, company personnel participated in a complete sweep of the Camp Radcliff compound to search out and clear possible infiltrators or hidden explosives.

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(6) Rocket, mortar, small arms and sapper attacks that occurred during the quarter follow:

(a) Locations and Dates:

(1) In Hqs : Company A, MACV/TROPO Hill compound, PKU, RVN: May 13 and June 18.

(2) Company A, PKU Det: June 18, 24, July 4, and 15.

(3) Company A, PKU Det: None

(4) Company A, CPH Det: May 12, June 12

(5) Company C, KTH, RVN: May 5, 6, 18, 20, and 31, June 7 and 16, and July 17.

(6) Company C, TCM Det: May 9, 14, 18, 27, July 1 and 11.

(7) Company C, DTO Det: May 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 28, June 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 13.

(8) Company C, GRO Det: June 6.

(9) 278th Sig Company (CPE): May 17, 18, June 7, 8, and July 2.

(10) 586th Sig Company: May 12, June 6, 26, 28, and July 19.

(b) Personnel WIA and KIA:

(1) HQ and Company A at Pleiku: None

(2) Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion at Kontum: None

(3) Dak To Signal Site, Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion: WIA 1

(4) 278th Signal Company at Camp Enari: None

(5) Dragon Mountain Signal Site (362nd Signal Det): WIA 1

(6) 586th Signal Company at An Khe: None

(c) Equipment Damage:

(1) Dak To Signal Site, Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion: On 23 May 1969, one 2½ ton vehicle received shrapnel and the windshield was damaged. Also, the detachment shower and latrine were heavily damaged by concussion and shrapnel.

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Period ending 31 July 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (21)

(2) Dak To Signal Site, Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion: On 1 June 1969, one 3/4 ton truck suffered damage to the right front window as a result of concussion.

(3) Dak To Signal Site, 43rd Signal Battalion: On 3 June 1969, one 2/4 ton truck took shrapnel through the windshield; one 2 1/2 ton truck windshield and tire was damaged by shrapnel; one 600 gallon water pod was damaged by shrapnel and an improvised shower water tank was completely destroyed. In addition, one locally improvised latrine structure was destroyed.

(4) Dragon Mountain Signal Site, 362nd Signal Company Det: On 26 May 1969, one billet was destroyed by satchel charges placed by sappers and three rooms were demolished. One TRC-97/3 structure was severely damaged by a B40 rocket, and the TRC-97/3 Van received shrapnel damage. No signal equipment was destroyed. One TRC-97/3 antenna and one mast section was sheared in half by satchel charges. Also two sections were blown out of the antenna dish. Sabotage of the wire head was reported but not confirmed. Three of four circuits straps were broken into pieces, the one remaining intact carried all the circuits.

f. Safety:

(1) Command emphasis on safe working conditions and habits continues down to the lowest echelon in all operational areas of this organization. Safety posters, daily bulletins, and the publication of several command letters concerning specific safety procedures resulted in increased emphasis and awareness in the safety program.

(2) Safety regarding the use and maintenance of weapons and ammunition continues to be an area of special command emphasis.

(3) Safe driving practices, an area of particular concern, are continually stressed through the various news media available to commanders and Safety Officers. During the reporting period, this battalion sustained two (2) reportable vehicular accidents.

(4) The Battalion Safety Council has been instrumental in formulating and pursuing an aggressive safety program throughout the battalion.

g. Training:

(1) The Battalion Training Section has persevered in maintaining high standards in all facets of training. Increased emphasis has been placed on USASTRACOM Form 115, "Training Qualification Record". Functional guide packets are being prepared and kept current according to applicable regulations and directives.

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Period Ending 31 July 1969, 133 CS-01-65 (R1)

(2) Maximum use of quotas for courses offered by the 1st Signal Brigade's USATF Continued during the last reporting period. A total of thirteen (13) courses were utilized with forty-one (41) personnel attending. Persons in the numbers indicate completed the following courses:

| <u>COURSE</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Telephone Installation and Repair course | 7 |
| FCC-25X Refresher course | 6 |
| PC System maintenance course | 2 |
| Cable Splicer refresher course | 1 |
| Radio Relay maintenance course GRC-50 | 1 |
| SSB maintenance course GRC-106 | 1 |
| Telephone Key System maintenance course | 1 |
| TSC/KW7 maintenance course | 1 |
| Pulse Code Modulation system operator course | 2 |
| PLL Training course | 1 |
| Projectionists Training (audio-visual) | 5 |
| System Control course | 1 |
| 36W Refresher course | 6 |

(3) Shortage which have been filled due to standardized formal OJT Training are in MOS 311, 36C, 718, and 723. This OJT program insures continuity of courses throughout the battalion.

(4) During the last reporting period, the DIAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES at CPE and AIE conducted an extensive OJT Program for personnel in MOS 36C and 36W. A 26-hour block of instruction, conducted by GHO personnel, was necessary due to the termination of the GHO-CEM Contract on 1 July 69. The battalion now has the responsibility to operate and maintain the DIAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES and to train personnel needed.

(5) Unit Commanders continued to provide all personnel with the required command information. The Battalion Chaplain conducted classes on Character Guidance IAW USARV 600-30. Unit Commanders are also charged with the responsibility to conduct Character Guidance training.

(6) The Battalion Staff conducted training inspections during the reporting period as required.

1. Operations:

(1) On 14 May 1969 the BMD system was activated between An Khe and Phu Cat. This system ties into the F-15 system (PAC to LZB) and provides a high quality communications with landing zone "ENGLISH".

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STATUS: Operational Report of the 43rd Signal Battalion for
Period ending 31 July 1969, DCS 33701-65 (R1)

(2) On 31 May 69 the B8M 12 system was activated between Pleiku and Camp Enari providing 15 channels of high quality communications. This brought about the deactivation of two (2) Corps Area VHF systems.

(3) During the last reporting period, the 77UM2D system (PKU to CPE) was upgraded from a 2L to a 45 channel microwave system. This increased the number of DCS Channels to CPE and allowed the deactivation of one DCS VHF System to CPE.

(4) During the quarter there were a total of six (6) system deactivations to include the BDM 56 between AKL and LZB; BDM 09, BDM 11, 77UH 3B, BDM 05 between PKU and CPE; and BDM 10 between CRO and DCM.

(5) A total of 43 circuits were activated, 55 circuits deactivated, and 71 circuits were rerouted.

(6) Burial of the overhead portion of the 200-pair cable linking Camp Enari and Dragon Mountain was accomplished during the last quarter. Due to terrain features the entire 5000-foot section had to be buried by hand. The project was completed on 13 Jun 69.

(7) The Pleiku Minor Relay, operated by Co A, 43rd Signal Battalion, processed a total of 156,585 messages, an increase of 5,549 over the previous reporting period.

(8) On 20 July 69, the Mode I (UNIVAC 1004) terminal was activated replacing the existing Mode V circuits at Pleiku Communications Center. Serving subscribers in the Pleiku Area, it passes an average of 16,100 cards a day, and 400 messages per day.

(9) The Pleiku SECORD switch was activated 3 July 1969, to provide AUTOSEVOCOM service to certain subscribers within the Pleiku area and immediate vicinity. Pleiku subscribers can call any other AUTOSEVOCOM subscriber in Vietnam or if authorized, throughout the entire Pacific area with equipment operated and maintained by Co A, 43rd Signal Battalion.

(10) A cable extension project installed by Co D, 40th Signal Battalion (CC) was accepted by the 278th Signal Company at Camp Enari on 10 July 1969. A total of 16,900 feet of cable was installed providing 400 additional pair of cable to be distributed to various areas of the base camp which previously could not be given adequate telephone service without installing excessively long runs of WD-108 drop wire.

(11) In order to provide greater alternate routing capability for the Dragon Mountain Signal Site (278th Sig Co), the circuit paths of all of the 362nd Signal Company Tropo Channels were reengineered to pass through the SB-611 Patch Panel at the VHF Site. The cut over

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took place on 26 June 1969, and only minor problems were experienced.

(12) During the reporting period, 107 new mainlines and 60 new extensions were installed from the Camp Enari Dial Telephone Exchange. This represents an increase of 185 percent for the quarter. It is now estimated that optimum fill will be reached in December of this year.

(13) Due to the termination of the GHO contract on 1 July 1969, this Battalion assumed the responsibilities to operate, maintain, and repair the Dial Telephone Exchanges at Camp Enari and An Khe.

(14) During the past reporting period, Company B, 40th Signal Battalion (CC) installed 38,500 feet of 25, 50, 100, and 200-pair cable in the Kontum Area. This greatly improved the telephone service given to subscribers by Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion.

i. Logistics:

(1) Mess Halls within the battalion have improved immensely during the reporting period. Company A received new mess hall equipment such as oven stoves, deep fat fryers, steam tables and cold tables. Most of these items are gas operated, thereby reducing the load on the cantonment generator. The oven heat affords better preparation of food. Some new equipment has also been received by Company C and the 278th Signal Company. The latter has also made vast improvements in the appearance and sanitation of their mess hall.

(2) The battalion obtained a temporary loan of eight (8) each 15 KW generators from USARV. These were distributed to the units thus eliminating many of the generator problems. Old generators that were in need of overhaul were replaced and/or turned in for maintenance.

(3) Ten (10) each air conditioners were acquired through supply channels and allocated to various signal sites within the battalion.

(4) An AN/MRC-85 power van became operational on Trobo Hill at Pleiku. The two (2) 150 KW generators power the signal site of Company A, 43rd Signal Battalion, 362nd Signal Company, and 518th Signal Company and the cantonment area for the PKU Det, Company C, 301st Signal Battalion. This action reduced the load on the IWCS power plant and eased the maintenance problem.

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j. Aviation:

(1) This battalion is authorized an aviation section by TOE; however neither aircraft nor aviation personnel are assigned. Support is obtained from the 21st Signal Group at Nha Trang, approximately 200 KM away. The air support provided by higher headquarters as well as scheduled Air Force and Army flights meets the requirements of this battalion. The 43rd Signal Battalion enjoys the use of an aircraft four (4) days per week.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations:

a. Personnel:

(1) Need for Data Communications Terminal Specialists. (72F):

(a) OBSERVATION: With the introduction of the Mode I operation, a need for personnel in MOS 72F has been established. It is difficult to conduct proper OJT and produce satisfactory results without qualified instructors.

(b) EVALUATION: All personnel assigned primary duties with the Mode I terminal require formal training in the operations and procedures of the 100K computer.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That school trained personnel in MOS 72F be assigned to this battalion in order to enhance the operation of the Mode I and assist in training personnel currently assigned.

(2) Need for Fixed Station Technical Controllers (32D):

(a) OBSERVATION: Replacements received for needed Fixed Station Technical Controllers are Tactical Circuit Control Specialists (31N) and are not familiar with the Fixed Station Technical Control Center.

(b) EVALUATION: The proposed MTOE calls for Tactical Tech Controllers (31N20) and, therefore, all replacements received must undergo a lengthy and time-consuming training program before they can be of any value to the gaining unit.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a determined effort be made to obtain more Fixed Station Tech Controller in this command to meet the ever increasing need for personnel in this MOS (32D).

(3) Mal-assignment of personnel in a critical MOS:

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(a) OBSERVATION: A number of personnel were mal-assigned to the Pleiku Communications Center, specifically in MOS 34C and 34D.

(b) EVALUATION: These personnel underwent lengthy and thorough training on equipment not organic to this unit. Their knowledge, experience, and training can be utilized in an organization where they are needed.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That personnel presently assigned within this battalion be transferred to units that can properly utilize their talents. That higher headquarters screen these individuals more carefully and assign them where needed.

b. Operations:

(1) Installation of Mode I:

(a) OBSERVATION: A Mode I Terminal was installed at the Pleiku Communications Center on 3 July 1969 and cut over to traffic on 20 July 1969.

(b) EVALUATION: Comm-center personnel, completely unfamiliar with the installation and operation of the Mode I, expended a great deal of time and effort during the installation. Delay and confusion would have been avoided had qualified personnel been available for this installation.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a qualified installation team be made available for future installations.

(2) Installation of Trunk Hunting Device:

(a) OBSERVATION: Prior to the installation of the trunk hunting device in the Camp Enari Dial Telephone Exchange, the Fourth Infantry Division's Tactical Switchboard - FAMOUS - was given subscriber service rather than trunk service. This resulted in the DTE having to dial up to fourteen (14) different numbers before finding an open line to FAMOUS Switchboard.

(b) EVALUATION: A trunk hunting device was installed. Subscribers now have to dial only two numbers to gain access to the FAMOUS trunk circuits, thereby improving the service to Camp Enari subscribers. This service is provided by utilizing the trunk hunting connectors wired in groups of nine and four number corresponding to the FAMOUS Class C assignment.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That any dial telephone exchange providing

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dial service rather than trunk service to a manual switchboard
utilize the trunk hunting feature if possible.

(3) Raising of Outside Terminal:

(a) OBSERVATION: A high percentage of Dial Telephone Service
at Camp Enari is disrupted during heavy rains due to wet cable
in the terminal cans.

(b) EVALUATION: Terminal cans at Camp Enari were originally
installed at the base of stubs which allows water standing in de-
pressions to enter the terminal. This causes disruption of service
until the cable dries.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That in future installations terminals
be installed at least ten (10) feet above the ground. This will
not only stop the water problem but will also help eliminate
unauthorized personnel from tampering with the terminal.

c. Training:

(1) Replacement training:

(a) OBSERVATION: It is extremely difficult for a company
size unit to conduct the proper replacement training for all
incoming personnel.

(b) EVALUATION: Instructor personnel and facilities are
either lacking or inadequate at the company level.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That incoming personnel receive the
necessary replacement training while still in a transit status.
This would also allow the Bn Training Section to monitor that
program effectively.

(2) Training of Data Communications Terminal Specialists:

(a) OBSERVATION: At the end of this reporting period no
school-trained Data Communications Terminal Specialists (72F)
were assigned.

(b) EVALUATION: At present, Comm-Center Specialists are
used to operate the Mode I Terminal recently put in operation.
Due to a lack of qualified instructor personnel, this training
is a time consuming process and not as adequate as it should be.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a course be set up within the
command to expedite and assist the battalion in the training of
needed 72F personnel.

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d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics:

(1) Need for Distortion Analyzer (DAS-10).

(a) OBSERVATION: The Pleiku Tech Control, Pleiku Army Area Communications Center and the Pleiku AUTOSEVOCOM facility are still in need of Distortion Analyzers (DAS-10)

(b) EVALUATION: Information on the DAS-10 has been forwarded to higher headquarter on numerous occasions, verbally and in writing. They have been requisitioned under three (3) different FSN's per instruction of higher headquarters. The item has been approved on the CCIL and a request for assistance has been submitted. Requisitions have been hand-carried to 1st Signal Bde Log Section per msg 1st Signal Bde Unclass Cite SCCPV-LG-S, 3342
SUBJECT: REQUIREMENT FOR DISTORTION ANALYZER (DAS-10) DTD 10 July 69. The lack of this item seriously hampers the performance of this battalion's mission.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That command emphasis be placed on the acquisition of the Distortion Analyzer (DAS-10).

f. Organization: None

g. Other: None

Humphrey J. Martin

HUMPHREY J. MARTIN
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SCCPV-NG-CPT (10 Aug 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSF 2-65 (AI)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, AF 96240 27 August 1969

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the basic report and concurs with the information contained therein with the following comments and/or exceptions:

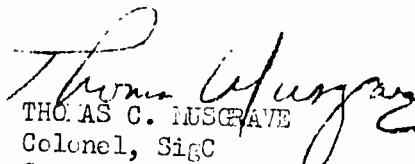
a. Para 1d (1), page 2. The total group strength during this reporting period decreased as DA continues to fill approximately 50% of monthly requisitions. During early August there was a marked increase in the number of personnel assigned to the 21st Signal Group; if this trend continues the strength situation will greatly improve. The 43d Signal Battalion has increased its total strength from 851, as of 31 July 69, to 936 personnel assigned, as of 20 Aug 69, a net increase of 85 personnel.

b. Para 1d (2), page 2 and para 2a (1) and 2a (2), page 10. MCS's 31J, 32F, 32D, and 72F are critical throughout Group. Authorizations for these personnel do not reflect present mission requirements. Required strength in these MCS's consistently exceeds authorized strength. 56 new MTOE/TDA Documents, covering units within Group, have been forwarded to DA for approval. When final action is taken, Group will have a more realistic authorization. The figures reported by the 43d Signal Battalion are in error in that seven 32D's are authorized, not eleven; there is one 72F assigned, not zero.

c. Para 2a (3), page 10. Personnel with MCS's 34C and 34D who could not be properly utilized within the 43d Signal Battalion have been reassigned.

SCCPV-MQ-OPT (10 Aug 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCS CSFDR-65 (II)

d. Para 2b (1), page 11. The 21st Signal Group does not have personnel qualified in Code I installation. 1st Signal Brigade had an installation supervisor on site. This headquarters provided a qualified 72F to assist the battalion in activating the 1004.


THOMAS C. MUSGRAVE
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: (1st Ind Only)

- 6 - CG, 1st Sig Bde, ATTN: SCCPV-OP, APO 96364
- 2 - ACS FCR, DA, Washington D.C. 20310
- 1 - File
- 5 - CC, 43d Signal Bn, APO 96318

SCOPV-OF-SD (10 Aug 69) 2nd Ltr
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RGS CSFDR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USARV), APO 96384 16 September 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Paragraph 2a(1), page 10. School trained personnel in MOS 72F are available or will be available prior to installation of terminals.

b. Paragraph 2a(2), page 10. Proposed authorization documents (MTOE 11-76G) include the following EM totals within 43rd Signal Battalion in MOS 32D:

E7 - 2

E6 - 3

E5 - 12

E4 - 8

In view of the above figures and the required figures in MOS 32D indicated in paragraph 1d(2), this headquarters concurs in the Group Commanders comment that when final action is taken the Group will have a more realistic authorization. If additional MOS 32D spaces are required, request for change should be made at next TAADS update.

c. Paragraph 2b(1), page 11. A qualified team was provided by Communications Systems Engineering and Management Agency (CSEMA) to install the Mode I terminal. The 43rd Signal Battalion was tasked to transport, relocate and assist CSEMA with installation of the terminal at the new site. The excess time expended in the installation of the Mode I terminal at Pleiku was due to delay in transportation of trailer mounted air conditioning equipment from the old site to the new site by the gaining unit.

d. Paragraph 2b(3), page 12. Raising of Outside Terminal:

(1) The original outside plant cable installation at Camp Enari was made using pedestal type terminals. This type of installation places terminal blocks approximately 3-4 feet above ground level. This requires

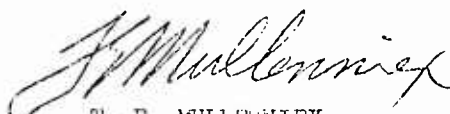
SCCPV-OP-SD

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

removal of the cable sheath to approximately 2-3 feet above ground level. Generally, placing terminals in depressions where water may rise above 2-3 feet, can be avoided by careful engineering planning. However, in certain cases it may be necessary to locate terminals in areas susceptible to flooding in order to provide adequate drop wire distribution. Terminals should not be installed on short (stub) poles since drop wire distribution will usually require 18-20 feet ground clearance.

(2) Future requirements to place pedestal type terminals above the normal height will be determined on a case by case basis during the engineering survey of each project. Terminals which will provide aerial drop wire distribution will be mounted on poles which will provide adequate ground clearance for drop wire distribution. The problem as stated does not indicate that personnel have been tampering with the terminal boxes and it is not felt that a blanket procedure should be established to put all terminal boxes at a height of 10 feet.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



T. E. MULLENIX
LTC, AGC
Adjutant, General

CF:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240
Commanding Officer, 43rd Signal Battalion, APO 96318

AVHGC-DST (10 Aug 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 29 SEP 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 43d Signal Battalion.

2. Reference item concerning "Need for Distortion Analyzer (DAS-10) section II, page 13, paragraph 2e(1); concur. An ECOM representative from this headquarters will contact the ECOM Laboratories at Ft Monmouth, New Jersey and provide the unit with the status of the requisition and the equipment.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


RICHARD V. [unclear]

CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
43d Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (10 Aug 69) 4th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-Pacific, APO
San Francisco 96557 2 0 OCT 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (10 Aug 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 43d Signal Battalion for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 24 OCT 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. TUCKER
CPT AGC
ASST AG

CF:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO-CERA (10 Aug 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 43d Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R-1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 14 NOV 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs in subject as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Robert A. Mall
ROBERT A. MALL
Captain, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

CF:
CG USASTRATCOM-PAC (w/o incl)
HQ US Army-PAC (w/o incl)

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